

HEIRS OF MANETTE MARSONS.

APRIL 26, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. OVERSTREET, from the Committee on War Claims, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany House Res. No. 295.]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1479) for the relief of the heirs of Manette Marsons, deceased, submit the following report:

This is a claim for stores and supplies, the contents of the Winter House, a hotel in Pensacola, Fla. The stores and supplies were taken and appropriated in November, 1862, by the Union Army for hospital purposes, under the promise of compensation.

Manette Marsons was a colored woman. The stores and supplies in the hotel were purchased originally with her private money, although the hotel was kept in the name of Miguel Quigles, her husband, who was a white man.

Mrs. Marsons always went by her family name, though she and her husband were lawfully married a short time before he died. Quigles died October 7, 1862. Before he died he gave over and assigned to his wife all interest he might be supposed to have in the goods and the claim therefor.

The claim was filed in the office of the Quartermaster-General and dismissed for want of jurisdiction. The amount claimed is \$7,819.90.

If the claimants have a just claim it ought to be paid, and there is no reason why the proper facilities should not be afforded them to establish its validity. The committee therefore recommend that the claim be referred to the Court of Claims for a finding of facts under the terms of the acts of March 3, 1883, and March 3, 1887, the former known as the Bowman Act and the latter as the Tucker Act, and report herewith a resolution to that effect and recommend its passage.